AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 3   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein receiving the list that identifies the messages comprises issuing a UIDL command to a POP3 server and receiving a plurality of unique message identifiers in response.

5 - 12   (Canceled)

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the filtering criteria comprises a time window.

14 - 15 (Canceled)

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein receiving the list that identifies the messages comprises issuing a UIDL command to a POP3 server.

17 - 34 (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) In a computing network comprised of a plurality of interconnected servers for transferring messages among the interconnected servers, and wherein at least some of the servers use a communication protocol that is not configured for communicating filtering information to the server, and wherein the computing network also comprises a plurality of client side computing devices for accessing the servers and downloading messages, a method of using client-side tracking mechanisms to allow a client side computing device to efficiently determine which messages need to be downloaded from the at least some servers for filtering at the client side computing device, so that essentially most of the filtering operations occur before the messages are downloaded, the method comprising:

setting at a client side computing device a filter criteria for new messages;

receiving at [[a]]the client side computing device a list that identifies all messages maintained at least one server using a communication protocol that is not configured for communicating filtering information to the server;

retrieving at the client side computing device a message store table that contains records identifying ~~only those messages that have~~each message which has previously met the filter criteria and has been placed in a message store, and marking each record with a flag;

retrieving at the client side computing device a checked table, ~~that contains~~the checked table comprising records identifying each message which has been checked against the filter criteria and has been found not to meet the filter criteria,~~only those messages that have not previously met the filter criteria,~~ and marking each record with a flag;

comparing the messages identified in the received list for all messages maintained at the at least one server with the records contained in the message store table and, for each message, determining if the message has already been placed in the message store;

comparing the messages identified in the received list for all messages maintained at the at least one server with the records contained in the checked table and, for each message, determining if the message is in the checked table, the checked table comprising records identifying messages having already been checked against the filter criteria and having been found not to meet the filter criteria; [[and]]

then downloading to an inbox at the client side computing device all messages from the list that do not already correspond to a record in either the message store table or the checked table, so that download time is limited only to all new messages as determined from the message store table and the checked table;, and

unmarking the flags for all records contained in either the message store table or the checked table that already correspond to those messages identified in the list that have been previously identified in either of the tables;

checking all new messages downloaded against the filter criteria, and either adding a new unmarked record to the message store table if the filter criteria is met, or else adding a new unmarked record to the checked table if the filter criteria is not met; and

removing any remaining records with marked flags in the message store table and the checked table.

36.   (Currently Amended) [[In]]A computer program product for use in a computing network comprised of a plurality of interconnected servers for transferring messages among the interconnected servers, and wherein at least some of the servers use a communication protocol that is not configured for communicating filtering information to the server, and wherein the computing network also comprises a plurality of client side computing devices for accessing the servers and downloading messages, [[a]]the computer program product comprised of computer-executable instructions for implementing a method of using client-side tracking mechanisms to allow a client side computing device to efficiently determine which messages need to be downloaded from the at least some servers for filtering at the client side computing device, so that essentially most of the filtering operations occur before the messages are downloaded, and wherein the method implemented by computer program product's computer-executable instructions comprises the method of claim 35.

is comprised of:

setting at a client side computing device a filter criteria for new messages;

receiving at a client side computing device a list that identifies all messages maintained at at least one server using a communication protocol that is not configured for communicating filtering information to the server;

retrieving at the client side computing device a message store table that contains records identifying only those messages that have previously met the filter criteria, and marking each record with a flag;

retrieving at the client side computing device a checked table that contains records identifying only those messages that have not previously met the filter criteria, and marking each record with a flag;

comparing the messages identified in the received list for all messages maintained at the at least one server with the records contained in the message store table and the checked table and then downloading to an inbox at the client side computing device all messages from the list that do not already correspond to a record in either the message store table or the checked table, so that download time is limited only to all new messages as determined from the message store table and the checked table, and unmarking the flags for all records contained in either the message store table or the

~~checked table that already correspond to those messages identified in the list that have~~
~~been previously identified in either of the tables;~~

~~checking all new messages downloaded against the filter criteria, and either~~
~~adding a new unmarked record to the message store table if the filter criteria is met, or~~
~~else adding a new unmarked record to the checked table if the filter criteria is not met;~~
~~and~~

~~removing any remaining records with marked flags in the message store table and~~
~~the checked table.~~

37.   (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 35 or 36, wherein the client side computing device includes a plurality of application programs running on the client side computing device, and wherein one or more of the application programs may configured by a user to establish filtering criteria for message information handled by that particular application program.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 37 wherein the client side computing device includes a message store managing component which allows each of the application programs to store and retrieve stored messages for that application program.

39.   (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 38 wherein the client side computing device includes a plurality of transports configured to receive and transmit different types of messages.

40.   (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 39 wherein the messages may comprise any or all of the following kinds of messages: IMAP4, SMS, POP3, Active Sync, IM, and MMS.